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SPORTING SECTION

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DIOMED, SIRE OF GREAT SIR ARCHY

Imported in 1798, He Became the Father of the American Thoroughbred.

BOUGHT IN ENGLAND FOR FIFTY GUINEAS

Winner of the Derby and Other Crack Races Across the Water, He Won His Greatest Reputation on This Side as the Sire of Winners.

BY THOMAS NELSON CARTER.

The importation of Diomed by Colonel Holmes, of Caroline county, Va., in 1798 was the most fortunate event that ever took place in the history of the American horse.

He was the fountain head from which flowed the best strain of thoroughbred blood that exists to-day in this country. Of course, the great race-horse did not immediately spring into being on the advent of Diomed. Much preparation for his coming, and much care after his arrival, was necessary, for it is a far cry from the small, wild American horse of 200 years ago to those splendid racing machines of the last generation—Iroquois, Foxhall, Parole, Hanover and Salvator—or to those of the present generation—Synony, Colin, Peter Pan and Voter. Many long years and much money and care were expended in transforming what was into what is. It would be very interesting along this line to go into the question of the origin of the American horse; to show what manner of animal he was in the latter part of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth centuries, as well as to show what effect was produced by the importations from England anterior to the arrival of Diomed, but I have neither the time nor space to go into these matters.

To give some idea of the horse of 1798, it will be sufficient to quote one passage from "Beverley's History of Virginia," London, 1795:

"There is," says the historian, "yet another kind of sport the young people take great delight in, and that is the hunting of wild horses, which they pursue, sometimes with dogs and sometimes without. You must know they have many horses foaled in the woods of the uplands that never were in hand, and are as shy as any savage creature. These, having no man upon them, being long as him that first takes them. However, the captor commonly purchases these horses very dear by spoiling better in pursuit, in which case he has little to make himself amends, besides the pleasure of the chase, and very often he is all the time for it, for the wild horses are so swift that 'tis difficult to catch them, and when they are taken, 'tis odds but their grease is melted, or else, being old, are so sullen they can't be tamed."

These small wild horses and those domesticated and bred from them were what we find when the English importations began. The earliest recorded importation I can find (although I have no doubt that others preceded this) is Bulle Rock, or Rook (spelled both ways), by Darley Arabian, out of a mare by the Beverly Turk; second dam by Lister's Turk; third dam a natural Barb mare, and belonging to Messrs. Samuel Tatton and Samuel Gist, of Virginia.

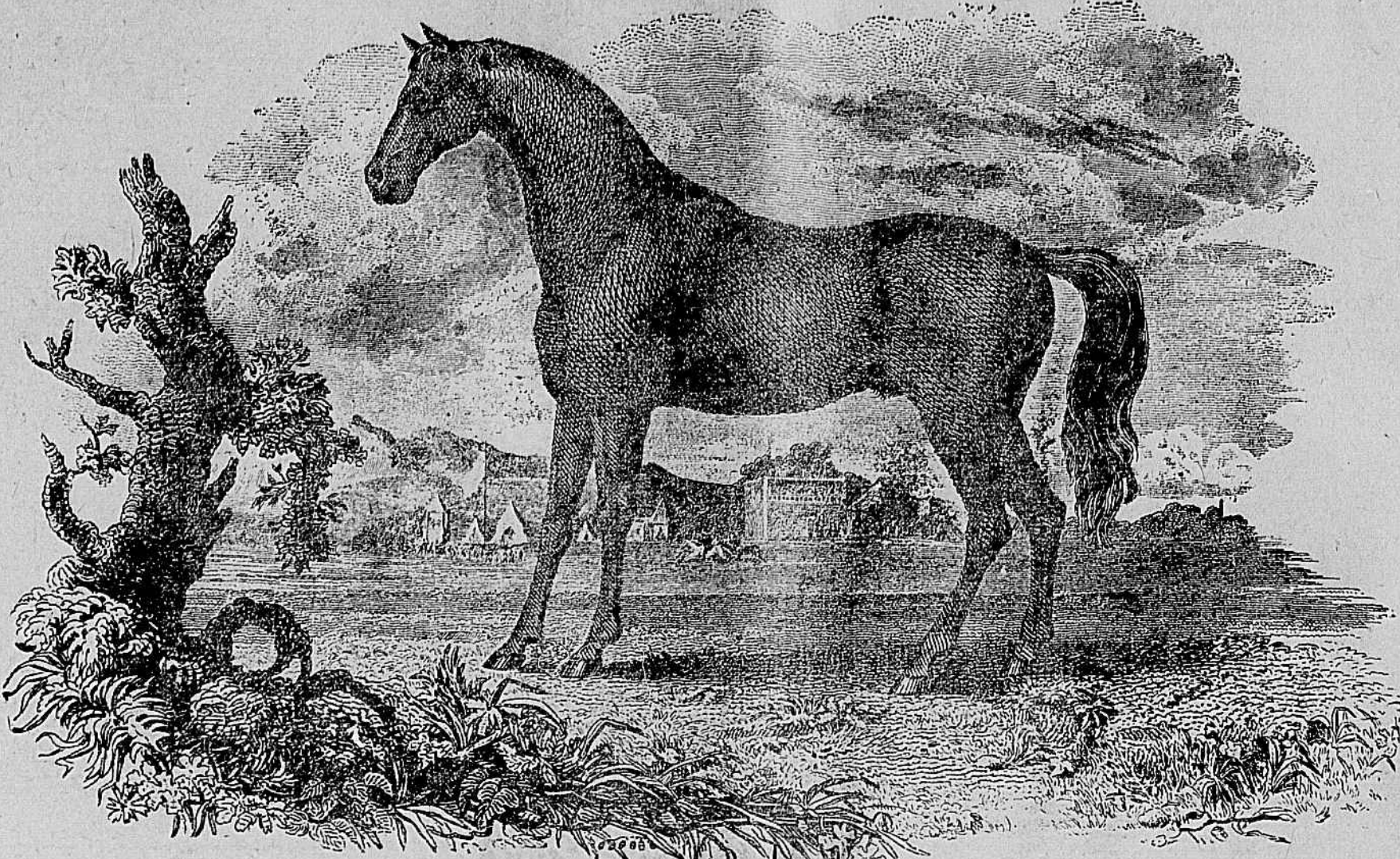
He was foaled in 1718, brought to Virginia in 1730, and was entirely, as his pedigree shows, of Eastern blood. Following him came Aquilun, foaled 1720, by Hampton Court Chestnut Arabian, out of Leeder's mare, by Leedes, second dam Moonah Barb mare. Then followed Dabster, foaled 1735, by Hobgoblin; Crab, foaled 1736; Cub, foaled 1739; Hector, by Lath, foaled 1745; Jolly Roger, 1741; Janus, 1746; Hero, 1747; Edith, by Partner, 1747; Brutus, 1748; Childers, by Blazer, son of Flying Childers, 1751; Bachelor, 1753; Bajazet, 1751; Babraham, by Fearnaught, 1759; Aristotle, 1755; Tom, 1759; Messenger, 1761; Vandyke, 1767; Lycurus, 1767, and many others.

These horses, of course, prepared the way for Diomed in 1798. The home stock had been developed from thirteen and fourteen hand ponies to something like a thoroughbred by importations, by care in breeding, attention to food and constant racing.

Racing had been in progress for many years, as appears from the records of the Virginia county courts, notably of Henrico County Court—the "race-horse region." These courts were called on as early as 1679 to settle disputes arising out of races. The most interesting account is given of this time by Mr. W. G. Stanard in "Virginia Historical Magazine," Vol. II.

(Continued on Second Page.)

WINNER OF THE DERBY AND SIRE OF SIR ARCHY



DIOMED.

From an Old Print.

RACING NEWS OF BENNING'S

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 14.—Crowds of visitors are present every morning at Benning's to watch the work of the horses. Many of the thoroughbreds now at the track are in splendid condition and ready for racing.

Among the horsemen who have been closely watching the thoroughbreds it is D. Neet, who owns the stable owned and trained by W. H. Mosby, will win the two-year-old events during the coming meeting. Mr. Mosby reached the track from Kentucky a month ago with a well-filled stable of young horses, all of which have been working steadily since their arrival.

They are the most forward of the two-year-olds at Benning's, and their trainer is not doing too much with the horses, as he knows the danger of overwork at the beginning of the year. Six of these two-year-olds are by the Hamburg stallion Handsome, and they were bred in Kentucky by Dr. D. Neet, who owned the mares Cinderella and Tarentella. Many horsemen who have seen these two-year-olds say that they are the smartest youngsters so far seen.

The names of some of them are Tremalco, a brother to Sir Vagrant; Spencer Wells, a brother to Western; Brown Tony, Babcock, Princess Pine, a sister to Fine Cut; Aralia, a half-sister to Don Creole; Trepan, and several others, the names of which have not been announced. Mr. Mosby holds a half-interest in the two-year-olds which he is training for Dr. Neet, and they will race in his colors the coming season.

In addition to the horses Dr. Neet is racing in partnership with Mosby, Carroll Reid, who raced The Picket and Buckle, will train a youngster called Ashley Cooper, for the Kentucky breeder. This colt is by Don de Oro, and has been entered in many rich two-year-old events, as his owner thinks that he is one of the best colts that he has ever bred.

Paul J. Rainey's horses, which have been quarantined at Benning's all winter, are in excellent health, but none of them will be raced at Benning's. Aqueduct or Jamal, as William Garth, the trainer of the stable, has been ill, and will not be able to take up active management of his horses for some time.

"EL CUCHILLO" IS OUT FOR THE MONEY

NEW YORK, March 14.—J. E. Widener's cross-country steeplechaser El Cuchillo has arrived on the other side of the Atlantic. Mr. Widener has nominated the horse for the most valuable steeplechase in the world, the Grand Steeplechase de Paris and Auvergne. This event will be run on Sunday, June 15, over a course which consists of twenty-four jumps of the most trying character, some up and some down hill, which tests the soundness and stamina of a horse more than any amount of ordinary jumping. The race has \$25,000 in cash and \$2,000 in plate added to a sweepstakes of \$500 each. The distance is a little more than four miles, and under the conditions El Cuchillo will carry 157 pounds, while some of his opponents will pack 167. If the race was a handicap El Cuchillo would probably take better than he does at weight for age. The gelding is now six years old and a blood relation of Mr. Widener's famous jumper Coligny, winner of the rich Champion Steeplechase last fall.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., March 14.—Walter Wilmut, former manager of the Minneapolis baseball team and a National League player, will coach the baseball team of the University of Minnesota this spring. Wilmut's acceptance of the position has led the Gophers to hope for a successful season.

CASSIGNOL OUT FOR CUE HONORS

NEW YORK, March 14.—The arrival of Fernin Cassignol, champion billiardist of France, will give professional billiards a much-needed boost. The presence of foreign players this year has made matters very dull with the knights of the cue, but a revival of interest will follow the arrival of the French champion. He will remain in this country about six months, and during that time will play championship matches with Willie Hoppe, Jake Schaefer, George Sutton, George Slesson, Ora Morningstar and A. H. Cutler, in addition to taking part in an international professional tournament.

Cassignol is acknowledged to be the peer of Graebert and all the foreign players. He follows George Sutton's style of nursing, and is the best masse player in the world. Cassignol will go to Chicago next week.

SPORTING LETTERS

The sporting editor of The Times-Dispatch will gladly answer in these columns any questions regarding sporting matters. Communications on sporting subjects will also be printed, and comments will be made. Address: Sporting Editor, Times-Dispatch.

SHARKEY'S WISE TALK OF BURNS

NEW YORK, March 14.—Tom Sharkey is sending some suggestions on prize-fighting to his friends in Ireland that may prove of vast benefit to Jim Roche in his coming fight with Tommy Burns for the championship.

In Sharkey's opinion the only way for Roche to beat Burns is to continually pound him with left jabs and a strong left hook. In this way, he says, a good fighter can keep Burns off and finally land him.

ANN ARBOR TO PLAY CORNELL

DETROIT, MICH., March 14.—The board of athletic control of the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor, has voted in favor of allowing Graduate Director of Athletics Charles Baird to schedule either seven or eight games of football next fall, at his discretion. This leaves the Michigan director of athletics free to arrange a game with Cornell or some other Eastern college, in addition to the game with the University of Pennsylvania, which has already been arranged. The board in its action specifically mentioned the possibility of a game with Cornell, and said it would willingly consent to such an arrangement.

BASKET BALL GETS SOME HARD KNOCKS

NEW YORK, March 14.—The roughness and "slugging" which has characterized basketball games this year among the colleges has caused comment among the authorities, and if a change is not made next year there is a possibility of the faculties interfering and stopping the game. At New Haven there has been a good deal of discussion among the members of the faculty over the roughness of recent contests, especially in the recent game between Yale and Columbia, in which several of the players lost their tempers and indulged in slugging. It is undoubtedly the faculty will interfere, and the members of the basketball squad told that a reputation of roughness is those of this year will result in the abolition of the game. The Yale authorities have decided to be more liberal in the awards of the varsity letter, and in the future the winners of the individual championships in golf, lawn tennis, and basketball will be allowed to wear the "Y" Newman for Olympic crew.

ITHACA, N. Y., March 14.—William H. Newman, of this city, has been made and will probably accept an offer to be bowler in the American team at the Olympic Games in London next summer. Newman was lefty for the Cornell Varsity for two years.

HACKENSCHMIDT, BUT NO STRANGLE

NEW YORK, March 14.—George Hackenschmidt, the champion wrestler for one world, who is to meet Frank Gotch, of Humboldt, Ia., in Chicago on Friday, April 25, will give a preliminary exhibition of his skill at the mat at the Grand Central Palace on next Monday evening, and on Wednesday evening he will be seen with his partners at the Clermont Avenue rink in Brooklyn.

Hackenschmidt, after giving exhibitions in this and other Eastern cities for one week, will go into active training for the big match. Graeco-Roman rules are not to govern, but the bout will be straight catch-as-catch-can style, with the strangle held barred. The purse offered is one of \$10,000, 50 per cent of which will go to the winner and 50 per cent to the loser.

ONLY PARI-MUTUEL BETTING IN FRANCE

PARIS, March 14.—M. Roux, Minister of Agriculture, said yesterday that he entirely approved of the permanent racing committee's decision that the only form of betting to be allowed in the future on French race courses should be the pari-mutuel, and that the proposals for the re-establishment of bookmaking should be rejected.

The minister said that the percentage of pari-mutuel takings last year gave \$91,000 for distribution to French charitable institutions. Moreover, it had so encouraged horse-breeding that the annual Grand Prix originally of \$20,000, had increased to \$40,000, and this year would increase to \$60,000. He gave away six pounds to the next best horse and forty-one pounds to the lowest weighted.

D. Des Cordes will be the new starter for the French Jockey Club, succeeded recently after twenty-five years service.

The Rhodians scholars from the United States continue to make good in athletics at Oxford. In the recent University games A. M. Stevens, of Williams College, Conn., won the high jump and the hammer throw. He cleared five feet six inches in the jump and threw the hammer 129 feet nine inches. F. W. Bucholz, of Florida, was second in the hammer throw, with 107 feet, while L. G. Hall, of Michigan, won a heat in the 100-yard dash in ten and two-fifths seconds.

Future betting on the big English racing is still very low. For the Lincolnshire Handicap, which is to be run March 24th, Land League keeps his position at the head of affairs at 10 to 1, with Kaffir Chief as his nearest attendant, at 100 to 8 taken. Neither of Brewer's candidates received any mention, and the only one of Morton's that was dealt with was Dean Swift, at 100 to 6. Var also had an occasional friend at 20 to 1.

For the Grand National Steeplechase, to be run March 27th, waging was also on a very small scale, the chief feature being the hardening of Tom West to 100 to 3, without takers. Korkland was courted to win a few hundred at 100 to 8, and Springfield closed decidedly firm at 500 to 35, taken.

Not the Fourth Shamrock.

LONDON, March 14.—In an interview yesterday, after he had made a visit to Fairlie to inspect his new cutter, which is approaching completion, Sir Thomas Lipton said: "She is a racer pure and simple, and must not be called Shamrock IV, but simply Shamrock. I am reserving the lucky four-leafed Shamrock for my next American cup challenger."

English Stakes Dates, 1908.

Lincolnshire Handicap, 1 mile, March 24th; Grand National, 4 miles and 556 yards, March 27th; St. Leger Handicap, 1 1/2 miles, April 25th; City and Suburban, 1 1/2 miles, April 25th; Two Thousand Guineas, 1 mile, May 6th; One Thousand Guineas, 1 mile, May 8th.

MR. THOMAS BURNS THE ONE BEST BET

The English Experts Think He Will Make a Show of Roche.

ALL THE PUGS ARE AFTER THE MONEY

Vanderbilt Has Fine Chance of Winning Out on the French Turf—American Athletes at Oxford Made Good Showing.

BY RICHARD DAHLGREN.

LONDON, March 14.—"Tommy Burns" is in perfect shape for his fight in Dublin on Tuesday and is confident that he will deal with Jim Roche, the Irish champion, even as he dealt with Gunner Moir and Jack Palmer. Despite the stories which came from Ireland of the punching ability and speed of Roche, it is not believed in sporting circles here that the Irishman will make any better showing with the American than Moir and Palmer made.

Quite a number of English fight enthusiasts will cross the channel to see the fight, and a record-breaking house is assured.

The big houses drawn by Burns in his two big fights have made the loser's end of the purse big enough to be very attractive to the underpaid British pugilist, and there are plenty of men who are willing to take a beating for the loser's end. The latest aspirant for a go with Burns is "Tiger" Smith, who in his fight with Moir appeared as though "Lamb" would have been a more fitting nom du guerre than "Tiger." The Tiger writes to a London sporting paper from his home at Merthyr, South Wales, as follows:

"Sir—I wish you would insert in your valuable paper that seeing Jack Palmer made such a poor showing with Tommy Burns, I will box Burns if any one will give a good purse. I am certain I can give him as good a fight as he will have on this side of the water."

Yours,

"Tiger" SMITH.

Up to this writing the "good purse" has not been forthcoming.

When asked if he would fight "Tiger" Smith for a "good purse," Burns replied lightly, and with a wide smile: "Sure thing. That's what I am here for."

It will interest Americans to know that there is a good prospect of Wm. K. Vanderbilt again leading the winning owners on the French turf this year, and that an American-bred colt with an American name is depended upon to carry the Vanderbilt colors to the front in the big French stakes. The colt is Schuyler, by Meddler, out of Loyola, the Irish stallion, bred by the famous American racer Luke Blackburn, so he comes of good American racing stock. Schuyler is entered for the Grand Prix de l'Academie, the world; it is worth \$75,000; for the Essal des Poulains (French two thousand guineas); Prix Lupin (Produce Stake); Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby); Prix Royal Oak and Prix La Rochette. If nothing untoward happens he has a good chance to win any of these big stakes. Besides Schuyler, Mr. Vanderbilt has in training other horses. Among these are Beldame, Virginia, Beldame (by Haima, out of Belphoebe), Ramona (by Haima, out of Miss Miriam), Susquehanna and others whose names originated in America.

The estimation in which Schuyler is held by the French handicappers is indicated by the fact that they have given him 100 pounds weight in the Grand Prix. He gives away six pounds to the next best horse and forty-one pounds to the lowest weighted.

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(Continued on Second Page.)

ALL SORTS AND CONDITIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN GO A'SKATING

